

1-4 YEARS OLD



Introduction¹

Injury is the leading cause of death of Washington children 1-4 years old. During 1999-2001, injuries among Washington children in this age group were responsible for an annual average of:

- 31 deaths.
- 516 hospitalizations.
- About 46,300 visits to a hospital emergency department, or about one out of every seven children 1-4 years old.

Summary

Injury is the leading cause of death of Washington State children 1-4 years old. Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of injury-related death, and falls were the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization for children 1-4 years old. The injury-related death rate for Washington children 1-4 years old decreased by about 52 percent during 1981-2001.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, data are for injuries among children 1-4 years old during 1999-2001. Rates are per 100,000 children 1-4 years old who are Washington residents.

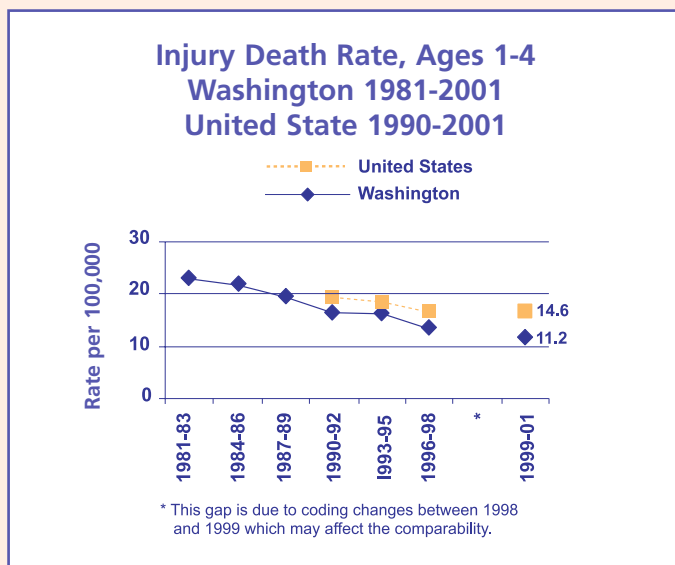
Time Trends²

For the three-year time period of 1981-83 to 1999-2001, the injury death rate for Washington children 1-4 years old declined significantly from 23.2 to 11.2 per 100,000. This represents about a 52 percent decrease in the injury-related death rate for this age group.

Since 1990³, Washington death rates for children 1-4 years old have been slightly lower than those nationally.

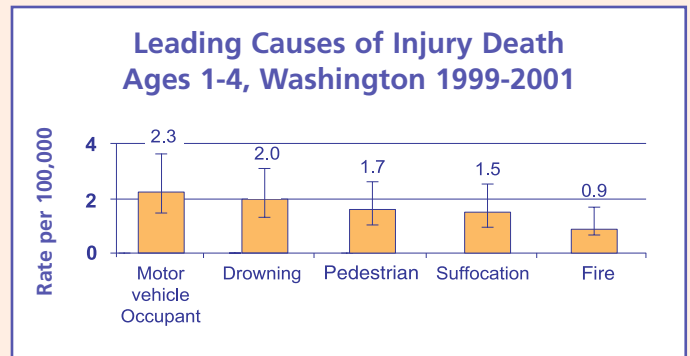
Intent

The majority of injury deaths (94 percent) and hospitalizations (95 percent) were unintentional.



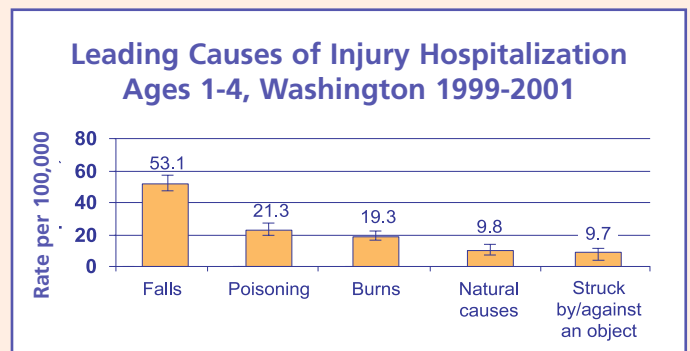
Leading Cause of Death

Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of injury-related death for Washington children 1-4 years old. Drowning closely followed motor vehicle crashes as the second-leading cause.



Leading Cause of Hospitalization⁴

Falls were the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization for Washington children 1-4 years old.



For prevention strategies, see chapters on motor vehicle occupant injury, injury due to falls, drowning, poisoning, fire and burn injuries, pedestrian injury, and suffocation.

² See Comparability Ratio section in Appendix D.

³ National injury death rates for children 1-4 years old are not available prior to 1990.

⁴ Natural causes are defined as injuries caused by excessive exposure to heat, cold, or weather conditions; hunger; or cataclysmic storms (tornados, floods, and hurricanes) or land movement (earthquakes, land slides, avalanches, and tidal waves). Struck by or against an object is defined as an injury resulting from being struck by or striking against objects or persons.